

Comments for Quadrennial Energy Review
National Wildlife Federation
April 11th 2014

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comment on the pending Quadrennial Energy Review. I am here on part of the National Wildlife Federation, one of the nation's oldest and largest conservation organizations dedicated to inspiring Americans to protect wildlife and our children's future. On behalf of our more than 4 million members and supporters nationwide, we applaud your efforts to craft a comprehensive federal road map to identify and implement consistent, clear energy goals and policies. I am here today to stress that these policies must enhance our ability to combat climate change; in fact, the National Wildlife Federation believes this must be the single most important factor informing all of our major energy infrastructure and investment decisions.

We were thrilled to hear President Obama's commitment last June "to take bold action to reduce carbon pollution" and "lead the world in a coordinate assault on climate change." National Wildlife Federation has been working hard to support the numerous efforts this Administration has already taken to reduce our economy-wide carbon pollution, and we look forward to continuing this collaboration. These policies have helped protect our most cherished lands and the wildlife that depend on them from the impacts of unabated climate change. However, we must reiterate that an "all of the above" energy policy is simply incompatible with this Administration's stated goals of cutting carbon pollution and will continue to undermine our ability to address climate change. An "all of the above" energy policy that allows for the expansion of coal mining and export, oil development and export, and turns America's heartland into a throughway for Canadian tar sands export pipelines will directly undercut the laudable efforts of the Administration to reduce our domestic carbon pollution – like the pending rule to limit greenhouse gas emission from existing power plants. We must not undo the potential benefit of this substantial and historic effort by simply increasing emissions in other sectors.

The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, released just a few weeks ago, was alarmingly clear – climate change poses a growing threat to our health, economic livelihood, and food and water sources of billions of people – including Americans. With the drought in California already causing a state of emergency and the rest of the country bracing for a summer filled with increased wildfires, hurricanes, and extreme weather events, it is imperative that we do everything in our power to mitigate these impacts to protect communities and wildlife from further devastation. This goal simply cannot be achieved at the levels scientists warn are necessary if we continue an "all of the above" energy strategy that deepens our reliance on polluting fossil fuels.

In June of last year, President Obama declared that he would not find the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline in the national interest if it was found to "significantly exacerbate" climate change. We applaud this commitment and look forward to the rejection of that highly polluting and dangerous project. We also hope that this same "climate test" will be applied to all major energy infrastructure decisions under the administration's authority.

We are very pleased to see the draft QER include the long-term goal of advancing clean energy and recognize the threat of climate-driven severe weather events to our nation's energy infrastructure systems. However, the need to combat climate change and minimize these growing threats must be given center stage in our future energy policy platform. Specifically, the QER should prioritize as a goal promotion of projects and infrastructure investments that reduce carbon pollution and advance zero-

carbon energy sources. These decisions must not lock us in to major infrastructure projects that will perpetuate production of polluting fossil fuels for the next century. As we said in our January 16th letter, along with seventeen other national organizations, an “all of the above” energy strategy is a compromise that the future generations can’t afford.

Please direct any questions or concerns to:

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